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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/635,174

08/06/2003

Dirk Schmieding

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9171

27667

7590

08/20/2004

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EXAMINER

HAMMOND, BRIGGITTE R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 08/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/635,174

Applicant(s)

SCHMIEDING ET AL.

Examiner

Brigitte R. Hammond

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 8, 10 and 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 4-7 and 9 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/5/04 and 8/29/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Drawings*

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the insulating body being fastened to the support plate by two solder-in clips and the plug connector having a fixing screw which engages into the first type of contact through the housing, must be shown or the features canceled from the claims. No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings **are required** in reply to the Office action **to avoid abandonment of the application**. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 8 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chen et al. 6,183,292. Regarding claim 1, Chen discloses plug connector comprising a housing 5 including an accommodation chamber 53,54, and a support plate 51 which is arranged in said accommodation chamber and divides the chamber in first and second

sections, a first type of contact 1 being arranged in said first section and a second type of contact 4 being arranged in said second section, said second type of contact being a USB coupling.

Regarding claim 8, wherein said first type of contact is a socket insert.

Regarding claim 11, wherein said housing has a mounting flange (see fig. 1).

\*Claims 1, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lai 6,729,897. Lai discloses a plug connector comprising a housing 21,22 including an accommodation chamber (not numbered), and a support plate 6 which is arranged in said accommodation chamber and divides the chamber in first and second sections, a first type of contact 3 being arranged in said first section and a second type of contact 4 being arranged in said second section, said second type of contact being a USB coupling.

Regarding claim 10, the support plate is a circuit board.

Regarding claim 11, the housing has a mounting flange (see fig. 2).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lai in view of Shiu 5,961,350. Lai discloses the contacts being mounted to the support plate so as to face away from each other. Lai does not disclose the couplings being two

USB couplings. However, Shiu discloses two USB couplings being mounted on a support plate 12. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to modify the connector of Lai by having two USB couplings 20,22 mounted on a support plate as taught by Shiu for accommodating two connectors.

Regarding claim 3, Shiu discloses the USB couplings are surrounded by one shield each 44,46, a spring element 56,64 being provided which connects the shields with each other.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 4-7 and 9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Regarding claim 4, patentability resides, at least in part, in the plug connector having two USB Couplings surrounded by an insulating body which is fastened to the support plate by two solder-in clips, in combination with the other limitations of the base claim and regarding claim 9, patentability resides, at least in part, in the plug connector having a fixing screw which engages into the first type of contact through the housing, in combination with the other limitations of the base claim.

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Kuo et al. 6,343,957, Grabinger et al. 6,504,726, Zhou et al. 6,478,610, Yi 6,296,534 and Pirc 4,799,901 were cited for similar connectors.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brigitte R. Hammond whose telephone number is 571-272-2006. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs. and Alternate Fridays from 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Brigitte R. Hammond



August 13, 2004